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IN VACATION.

"The Greater the Truth, the Greater the Libel."

(Maxim of the common law in re. CRIMINAL libel.)

"When Teddy bought the Nation's ditch
And there our flag unfurled,
His brother-in-law grew mighty rich."
(So says the New York World.)

As Theodore that paper read
He flew into a rage,
And, I've heard tell, the things he said
Would soil this spotless page.

He straightway summoned Bonaparte,
Of quasi-legal fame,
And then, with heads not far apart,
They hit upon this game:

"I've heard 'twas true at common law"
(So quoth Imperial Ted)
"A very famous legal saw,
Hit our case on the head."

"So, a mere ACTION we won't bring
For damages and such
Against this malefactor ring—
We'd have to prove too much."

"The rascals we will PROSECUTE
For libel, one and all;
Lead forth, "Nap." Bluff, and institute
Proceedings criminal."

Then spoke Attorney Bonaparte:
"This maxim's full of sense.
If of our law 'tis still a part
The truth, then, 's no defense."

J. AUGUST GOERDELER.

—Norfolk Ledger-Dispatch.